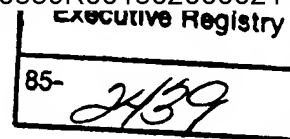


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Namibia News Bureau

OFFICE OF NAMIBIA 910 17th Street, Washington, D.C. 20006, Suite 820 Tel. 202-775-1332 Telex 64538 NAMIB UW



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO BE REPRESENTED IN NAMIBIA BY NEW ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL

Windhoek, South West Africa/Namibia, June 4, 1985

The Administrator-General of SWA/Namibia, Dr. Willie van Niekerk, whose appointment as South Africa's Minister of Health and Welfare was announced by the South African State President today, previously served as professor and head of the University of Stellenbosch's Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics for 12 years.

During this period (January 1970 to January 1982), Dr. Van Niekerk, 47, was also attached to the Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town in the same capacity.

He was Chairman of the President's Council Committee on Community Relations from February 1, 1982 to January 31, 1983 and was a member of the Council's Science Committee in 1981.

He took up his post as Administrator-General of SWA/Namibia in 1983.

Dr. Van Niekerk, who was born in Pretoria, matriculated at the Afrikaanse Hoer Suensskool there in 1953 and graduated as a doctor with distinction in Gynecology and Obstetrics at the University of Pretoria in 1959.

He was appointed a member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in London in 1965 and a fellow in 1971.

The new Minister of Health and Welfare was Senior Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the International Academy for Sitology and was President-Elect in 1983 but had to resign from the Academy on his appointment as Administrator-General of SWA/Namibia.

Other international bodies of which Dr. Van Niekerk is a member include the American Academy of Reproductive Medicine, the American Gynecological Society and the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

In South Africa, Dr. Van Niekerk is a member of the South African Medical and Dental Council, the Medical Research Council, the South African Medical Association and the South African Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

He has published a book, True Hermaphroditism: Clinical, Morphological and Cytogenic Aspects, has written chapters for seven medical books and 27 of his articles have been published in medical journals.

The outgoing Administrator-General of SWA/Namibia, Dr. Willie van Niekerk, said he was greatly honored to be appointed to the cabinet by the South African State President, Mr. P. W. Botha.

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"I will do everything in my power to make a success of my task in the interests of the country and its people and the National Party," Dr. van Niekerk told SAPA.

Dr. Van Niekerk was approached for comment on his appointment as Minister of Health and Welfare from July 1 in a cabinet reshuffle announced by Mr. Botha today.

Dr. Van Niekerk, who was appointed on February 1, 1983, and has been the longest serving Administrator-General in the territory, will fill the cabinet vacancy left by the death of Dr. Nak van der Merwe.

Asked about the immediate future of SWA/Namibia, Dr. Van Niekerk said he had no doubt that the Territory's transistional government to be instituted next month "has the necessary determination to make a success of its task in the national interest."

The proposed government, which represented a broad spectrum of political opinion, would take control of a highly efficient public service and a powerful security force.

Despite the world-wide economic recession, the SWA/Namibian transistional government would have sufficient funds at its disposal to give it a head start, he said.

Dr. Van Niekerk said that SWAPO was not living up to the expectations of the Soviet Union.

"SWAPO is losing the terrorist struggle and it is retrogressing politically inside the country as well as internationally," he said.

"SWAPO is clearly a puppet of the USSR" and "the organization's future course of action would depend much on plans that the Soviet Union had for SWAPO," he said.

Dr. Van Niekerk said he doubted that SWAPO would participate in the SWA/Namibian transistional government, but if SWAPO wanted to remain politically "relevant, it will have to enter the domestic political process."

South Africa's former ambassador in Paris, Mr. Louis Pienaar, now a member of the South African President's Council, is to succeed Dr. Willie van Niekerk as the Administrator-General of SWA/Namibia.

His appointment was announced by the State President, Mr. P.W. Botha, today when he outlined a major cabinet reshuffle.

Mr. Pienaar's appointment, as with the other appointments announced today, is effective from July 1.

Mr. Pienaar was born in Stellenbosch on June 23, 1926, matriculated from the Hoer Jongenskool, Wellington, in 1942 and obtained his B.A. in Law from Stellenbosch in 1945.

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After obtaining an LL.B. from the University of South Africa, he practiced as a lawyer in Bellville.

In 1966 he was elected to the Provincial Council for Bellville and became Member of Parliament for the same constituency in 1970.

In October 1975 he was appointed Ambassador in Paris and on his return became a member of the President's Council.

He is married with three children.

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